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FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES
REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

ELIMINATION REPORT

FORMER ERA TOOL AND
ENGINEERING COMPANY
4555 WEST ADDISON STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 14, 1989

Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy
Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology
Facility and Site Decommissioning

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**ELIMINATION REPORT
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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology, Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning (and/or predecessor agency, offices, and divisions), has reviewed the past activities of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at the former ERA Tool and Engineering Company, 4555 West Addison St., Chicago, Illinois, and has completed a preliminary radiological survey of the site. DOE has determined that the conditions at this site are in compliance with current radiological guidelines and standards and furthermore, the survey data indicate that no potential for DOE predecessor agency-related radiological exposure exists beyond those resulting from natural background. Therefore, this site requires no remedial action and is no longer under consideration for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

The material in this docket consists of information from documents supporting the determination that the radiological conditions at the Former ERA Tool and Engineering Company site are in compliance with radiological guidelines and standards determined to apply to this site* and provides assurance that use of this site will not result in any measurable radiological hazard to site occupants or the general public.

BACKGROUND

Site Function

During the period from February 1944 through June 1944, ERA Tool and Engineering Company entered into a subcontract with the University of Chicago for services and supplies to the Metallurgical Laboratory. The subcontract, No. 7401-37-122, provided for necessary personnel, facilities and equipment required to produce special machining of parts for special equipment, tools, jigs, fixtures, etc., from materials furnished by the University. This subcontract was executed on 20 February 1944 and was terminated 30 June 1944. Documents describing specific tasks or work

*U.S. Department of Energy Guidelines for Residual Radioactivity at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites, Revision 2 (March 1987).

accomplished by ERA Tool and Engineering have not been found. In addition, there are no records or historical information to indicate that uranium was handled at this site.

Site Description

The facility is located at the corner of Addison Street and North Kenton Avenue, approximately 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) northwest of the Chicago Loop. It is of concrete block construction with brick veneer; the floor is concrete slab. It adjoins a facility of similar construction to the east. Total floor area is about 1600 m² (17,300 ft²). Major inner walls are also of concrete block, while some smaller rooms are of wood frame construction. The building is single story, covered by a flat, tar and gravel roof; there are skylights in the main work areas. The facility is currently used for light manufacturing by the current owner, Audio Tex, Inc..

Radiological History

On May 22, 1989, Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) performed a preliminary survey at 4555 West Addison Street Chicago, Illinois. The objective of this survey was to obtain sufficient radiological data, upon which to base a decision for inclusion or exclusion from the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

Gamma and beta-gamma scans of the facility perimeter, building interior and roof did not identify any areas of elevated contact radiation. Total activity levels were ≤ 30 dpm/100 cm² for alpha and < 510 to 970 dpm/100 cm² for beta-gamma. Removable activity levels ranged from < 3 to 5 dpm/100 cm² for alpha and < 6 to 9 dpm/100 cm² for beta-gamma. For comparison, the DOE surface contamination guideline levels for uranium are:

5,000 dpm/100 cm², averaged over 1 m²
15,000 dpm/100 cm², maximum in 100 cm²
1,000 dpm/100 cm², removable

All measurements were well below these guideline levels.

Exposure rates measured throughout the facility ranged from 7.5 to 9.5 uR/hr typical of background for this area and are, therefore, below the DOE external gamma radiation guideline of 20 uR/hr above background.

ELIMINATION ANALYSIS

No information has been found to indicate that radioactive material was handled at this site as part of the University of Chicago subcontract. The results of the radiological survey performed by ORAU support this conclusion. Direct radiation levels are typical of natural background in the area. Environmental samples were also comparable to background.

Based on the information summarized in this report, DOE's Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning has determined that no remedial action is necessary at this site and has eliminated the former ERA Tool and Engineering Company Site in Chicago, Illinois from consideration under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

REFERENCES

"Radiological Survey at 4555 West Addison Street, Chicago, Illinois," M.R. Landis, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, October 1989, ORAU 89/G-76.

"A Background Report for the Formerly Utilized Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission Sites Program, Vol.2", U.S. Department of Energy, Assistant Secretary of Nuclear Energy, Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology, 1989.

"State Background Radiation Levels: Results of measurements taken during 1975 - 1979," T. E. Myrick, et al., Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN, November 1981.